

Investing in community assets



Watermain upgrade on Schreibers Rd, Cooran.

Popular community assets are in the spotlight in Council's 2025/26 Capital Works Program.

The \$52 million program includes the upkeep of, and upgrades to, Noosa Aquatic Centre, Cooroy Sports Complex, the Noosa Trail Network, plus a host of parks and other facilities.

The amenities at Pomona's Stan Topper Park and Cooran's Pioneer

Park Playground are set for a revamp. Noosa Aquatic Centre's 25 and 50 metre pool filtration systems will be replaced.

The Tewantin Doonella Bridge upgrade is the major project in this year's program.

Mayor Frank Wilkie said in recent years ambitious, record-level Capital Programs had delivered new infrastructure alongside a

large and separate schedule of disaster recovery-funded projects.

"Investing in the community's existing assets remains the prime focus," Cr Wilkie said.

"Renewal of Doonella Bridge at Tewantin is one of the biggest projects we'll undertake over the next six months."

"Built in 1968 and carrying around 20,000 vehicles a day, it's time to renew this vital link.

"The capital program will be completed alongside ongoing disaster recovery works funded by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA)."

"The QRA funded work is a significant investment in our shire, which includes about \$4 million in disaster recovery work arising from the recent Western Queensland Surface Trough rainfall event."

"With our strategic spending and a capital program focused on renewal and repairs of our existing assets, Council is continuing to meet committed levels of service and financial sustainability targets," Cr Wilkie said.

In Brief

Budget Fast Facts

An example of what we need to serve the 31,000 ratepayers in Noosa.

- \$5M allocated to roads, bridges, pathways.

- \$1.1M to power 5926 streetlights.

- \$1.9M for lifeguards to patrol beaches.

- \$1.6M to clean public toilets and barbecues.

- \$1.4M to mow parks and roadsides.

- Council allocates \$900,000 toward caring for our bushlands and vegetation.

- Almost \$1 million is provided in community grants.

Council adopts its budget on Monday 30 June. Visit noosa.qld.gov.au to watch the livestream.

Discount remains

The 5% discount on early rates payments continues for all ratepayers.

We're among a few Queensland councils that continue to offer discount.

The full pensioner rebate of a maximum of \$230 is available for all eligible property owners in the shire.

These measures will help ease cost-of-living pressures where it's most needed.

Council's Hardship Policy supports those in need who can least afford to pay their rates.

Contact Council on 5329 6500.



Keeping a lid on waste generation

Your waste charge covers compliance and innovation

Close to \$19 million a year is what Council allocates to collect, transport and deal with waste in Noosa.

The big-ticket item in that cost is achieving compliance with regulations, so we protect our environment and community.

Waste Services Manager Kyrone Dodd said Council can ill afford to ignore the compliance requirements.

"Our resource recovery site requires significant infrastructure upgrades, and this is being tackled with a multi-year approach and is costly," he said.

"Our landfill has a limited life, so we need to investigate innovative ways to divert waste, repurpose it and this is where we all have a role to play by reducing what we generate," he said.

Every ratepayer pays a waste charge to help cover these costs and meet state requirements. The state imposed waste levy continues to increase, resulting in a jump of about \$20 per tonne for residents. Mayor Frank Wilkie said this increasing cost to ratepayers is largely why we need to reduce what goes to landfill.

"Our shire is doing a good job diverting 53 per cent away from

landfill and to continue to be among the best in Queensland with our recycling rates, we all need to get better," he said.

BUDGET 25/26: BALANCING QUALITY SERVICES AND RISING COSTS

Budget aims to deliver services the community expects

A Noosa residential homeowner on the minimum general rate faces an extra \$2.35 a week on their total rates notice in the proposed 2025-26 budget, with no reduction in services despite escalating costs.

Council will formally adopt the budget on Monday 30 June. It proposes a 6.5% increase for most residential ratepayers.

Mayor Frank Wilkie said minimising cost-of-living increases on households and

delivering on the community's desire for maintaining good levels of service were key priorities.

"Local governments have also been hit hard by price increases for the materials and services needed for core business."

"To minimise impacts on ratepayers, councillors and staff worked through 10 budget workshops and identified savings across all departments.

"We committed to remaining one

of the few councils in Queensland to keep the early payment discount and the pensioner rebate of up to \$230 for full pensioners.

"We limited rate rises for most residential ratepayers by lifting short-term accommodation rates, which are still below that of other councils in the region."

Every Noosa ratepayer helps Council maintain, improve, and deliver about 150 different community services and facilities.

"Council cost rises are often higher than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is based on goods consumed by households.

"Councils have costs for items like steel, asphalt, concrete, fuel, waste collection contracts, wage increases, electricity for street lighting and more."

Among the 77 Queensland councils, Noosa is one of only 20 that are considered financially sustainable by the Queensland Audit Office.



How rates are calculated for 31,000 rate payers

Different properties pay different rates based on how the land is used and its value. There are 19 different rating categories across the shire.

Nearly 70 per cent of Council's budget is funded through rates, levies and charges.

Rates are calculated on land-use and value, to achieve cost recovery.

So why are rates different for homeowners, businesses, short-stay accommodation or agricultural land?

CEO Larry Sengstock said rates are charged based on how land is used.

"This means all property owners pay their fair share in exchange for the services they receive, which promotes equity across the 31,000 ratepayers," he said. More than half of all ratepayers in Noosa pay a minimum general rate.

"These properties are generally the most impacted by cost-of-living pressures, so Council looks to minimise rate increases in this category," he said.

"This means other rating categories may pay more where the land use allows them to make greater use of council services, allows them to benefit through the generation of income, or has

a greater impact on the shire's infrastructure," Mr Sengstock said.

Mr Sengstock said low growth in rateable properties in Noosa is another factor, meaning the increase in costs to provide services is funded by existing ratepayers.